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NGO Joint Statement on East Timor

INFID, ELSAM, KALYANAMITRA, YLBHI, LERAI, KPI-KD, SPRIM, Crisis Centre PGI, Ikatan Jurnalis Televisi Indonesia, PWI Reformasi, JKLPK, FORTILOS, TRUK, P3M, Aliansi Jurnalis Indonesia

The Secretary General of the United Nations has announced the result of the East Timor Popular Consultation on September 4, 1999, which clearly shows that the majority of East Timorese (79%) opted for independence. The result of the direct ballot demonstrates that 344,580 people or 79% of East Timorese opted for independence, and the remaining 21% or 94,388 East Timorese wanted special autonomy.

The people of Indonesia and the Government of Indonesia should respect the result of the popular consultation. The Government of Indonesia should take necessary steps to comply with the New York Agreement, signed on May 5, 1999, which is legally binding. Article 6 of the New York Agreement states:

> **"If the Secretary General determines, on the basis of the result of the popular consultation and in accordance with this Agreement, that the proposed constitutional framework for special autonomy is not acceptable to the East Timorese People, the Government of Indonesia shall take the constitutional steps necessary to terminate its links with East Timor, thus restoring under Indonesian law the status of East Timor held prior to 17 July 1976, and the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal and the Secretary-General shall agree on arrangements for a peaceful and orderly transfer of authority in East Timor to the United Nations. The Secretary – General shall, subject to the appropriate legislative mandate, initiate the procedure enabling East Timor to begin a process of transition towards independence."**

However, after the result of the ballot was announced, violence in East Timor escalated. More than one hundred people were killed, many were wounded and thousands have left East Timor and many more are still fleeing in fear of the violence. The violence was as such that volunteers and journalists who were monitoring the popular consultation had to also leave East Timor.

On September 7, 1999, The Chief Commander of the Armed Forces, General Wiranto, declares martial law in East Timor.

The escalation of violence and declaration of martial law clearly show the inability of the Indonesian Government and the Indonesian Armed Forces to restore peace and order in East Timor.

Based on these facts, we call that:

1. The Secretary General of the United Nations immediately hold a Security Council meeting to decide on the sending of Peace Keeping Forces to East Timor;

2. The Government of Indonesia should take concrete steps to stop the violence in East Timor and shows its sincerity and neutrality to act as a facilitator in this transition period in East Timor. This should be done by complying with the New York Agreement and be materialised in concrete actions by arresting armed militias who created and provoked the violence in East Timor.

3. The Indonesian Armed Forces and the Government of Indonesia should immediately lift the martial law in East Timor. We would like to remind the Indonesian Government that East Timor has been stated as non-self-governing territory ever since Popular Consultation to determine the future of East Timor was announced on April 21, 1999, which would be carried out under the supervision of the United Nations Peace Commission. Therefore, the declaration of martial law in East Timor is a violation.

Signed and released in Jakarta, September 8, 1999 by:

INFID, ELSAM, KALYANAMITRA, YLBHI, LERAI, KPI-KD, SPRIM, Crisis Centre PGI, Ikatan Jurnalis Televisi Indonesia, PWI Reformasi, JKLPK, FORTILOS, TRUK, P3M, Aliansi Jurnalis Indonesia

Translation of ACRONYMS/NAMES (added by ACFOA)

The International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID),
Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM),
Kalyanamitra, Women's Advocacy Forum,
The Legal Aid Foundation of Indonesia (YLBHI)
The Institute for Ethnic Conflict Resolution (LERAI)
East Timor Support Group (KPI-KD), the
Protestant Church Crisis Centre (Crisis Centre PGI)
Reformed Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI Reformasi),
Christian Workers Support Network(JKLPK)
The East Timor Solidarity Forum (Fortilos)
The Volunteers Team for Humanity (TRUK)
The Moslem Schools Development Association (P3M)
The Independent Journalists Alliance.